PHONE: SPRUCE 5-0464

JAMES O. SLOSS, M. D.
1425 THIRD STREET
BEAVER, PA.

13 Nov 1966

Dear Eric:

I hope you get this in time. This is to confirm your invitation to speak at our annual banquet of the Western Penna Numismatic Society on November 19 at 6 PM at Stouffer's Restaurant on Ward St. in Pittsburgh. We also invite your wife to visit us & go to the Banquet as this is the only night that the ladies are invited. You see, we don't belong to the NAACP etc & still have segregation. Our organization was formed in 1878 and is one of the oldest numismatic organizations in existence in this country. And we are life member ANA # 39. George Clapp was one of the founders & that grand old man George Martier is still among our members.

Enough of this & am so glad your wife will come with you & we shall

November 16, 1966

Dr. James O. Sloss
1425 Third Street
Beaver, Penna.

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your very nice letter confirming the speaking engagement on November 19.

Evelyn will not have to be driven into Pittsburgh as we can put her on a bus direcly to town, where she has a luncheon date to meet the Gift Buyer at Kaufman's Department Store. She prefers to work at Kaufman's during that afternoon as she operates a similar department here. We will then come into Pittsburgh, from Beaver, whenever it is convenient for you. You and your family will get to know Evelyn Saturday night and Sunday.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

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Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ANA CL 39

Meeting Report Nov. 19, 1966

The Annual Banquet of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society At Stouffer's Restaurant in Pittsburgh on November 19, 1966 was attended by 57 members, wives and guests, privileged to hear as guest speaker one of America's foremost research numismatists - Mr. Eric P. Newman, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Before dinner WPNS' convivial Program Chairman, Richard T. Foley introduced Mr. and Mrs. Newman to the newer WPNS members, with several old numismatic friends greeted, also. The many interesting displays of members' material and donated auction items were examined with enjoyment.

Following the delicious dinner Dick Foley presented WPNS President, Dr. James Sloss, longtime friend of the honored speaker, who formally introduced Mr. Eric P. Newman.

Speaking on "Sources of Emblems and Mottos on Continental Currency and Fugio Cents", Mr. Newman in fifty minutes took us over the fascinating numismatic trail of early America, with emphasis on paper money of the period 1686 to 1789, as outlined in the following highlights of his talk. Beautiful colored slides were used to good advantage to display the details of the engravers' art of that period.

The first known use of paper as a medium of exchange

was pointed out as being a private Swedish bank issue of 1661, to save shipment of heavy copper plate dalers. It was in the American colonies, however, that paper currency as a general issue was implemented. A private colonial bank issue of 1686 was followed by broader use of currency originated by the various American colonies. Newman noted that during the 1686-1789 period five to six hundred counterfeiters plied their trade, with their product, in many cases the only remaining replicas of the original issues that have long-since disappeared. Tracing the use of various devices to foil the counterfeiters, Mr. Newman presented a great variety of interesting types. Some designs were printed partially on stubs retained by the bank, with an exact matching of design details required as a test of authenticity. Red monograms, combinations of engraved and set type, intricate border ornamentation and "garbled" English and Latin words in reversed printing - all were schemes used with varying degrees of success against the crooks.

A 1729 issue of North Carolina was described as the "counterfeiters' delight", because of the simplicity in copying it. All that was required was good skill in duplicating the script, since this issue was all hand-written. This continued to be a problem until the arrival, finally, of a printing press.

The apogee of devices was reached in a 1749 Pennsylvania

currency issue designed by Benjamin Franklin and D. Hall. This involved type-set ornaments on the side, with extremely delicate-looking depictions of tree leaves in the center, with the fearsome message "to counterfeit is death".

Acting on a request by the Philadelphia Art Museum, Mr. Newman delved into the mystery of the leaf devices. A careful examination of the 1769 issue having three leaves on the back revealed a chip in the upper right corner, identified as a nail hole. This meant that the printing had been made from a laminate attached to the printing block, and not from an engraving integral with the wooden block. Botanists examining the detail advised Mr. Newman of the prints being bona fide impressions of leaves themselves, and not of a man-engraved nature, since the vein detail was too ~~xxxxxx~~ accurate for a hand product. Painstaking research by Mr. Newman uncovered the method that Franklin used. The leaf was pressed into a special plaster of Paris compound, then very carefully peeled out, leaving an extremely well-detailed mould of the leaf. Following hardening of the mould, molten lead was poured in, making a positive plate, or "cut" of today. This was then securely nailed to a flat block, secured in the chase, and put to bed in the press.

The secret was known only to a very few trusted printers, and successfully defied attempts at being unlocked down through generations of curious numismatists. Through a unique combination of botany and numismatics the truth is now known, for all to appreciate, study, and perhaps even try.

Further sleuthing by Mr. Newman revealed the source of many colonial currency designs and mottoes to be from the work of the previous century author, one Joachim Camerarious of Holland. Through correspondence with well-versed librarians ~~in~~ Mr. Newman was able to find a copy of the Camerarious book bearing the index, or shelf markings of none other that Ben Franklin himself! The Continental Congress currency issues carried emblems that were clearly adaptations of the Dutch work.

WPNS members and guests found the talk to be fascinating from start to finish, and know that the subject is certain to be among the big numismatic "finds" ~~of~~ of 1966.

Reported by J.A. Nelson,
Publicity

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U. S. Money Bore 'Stamp' Of Franklin

Emblems, Mottos On Early Bills Culled From Book

The emblems and mottos used on the first American paper money in 1775 came from a book in Benjamin Franklin's library, according to an expert on colonial currency.

Eric P. Newman told members of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society here over the week end that he recently made the discovery.

"Benjamin Franklin was on the committee to design the paper money," Mr. Newman said, "and took his designs from a book by Joachim Camerarious titled 'A Repository of Emblems and Mottos.'"

The St. Louis attorney said his find will be published for the first time in the Dec. 1 issue of the Numismatic magazine.

From Same Book

He contends that "other early designs which Americans of the period claimed to have developed, actually came from different parts of the book and were put together piecemeal."

Mr. Newman also is credited with the rediscovery of "nature printing" three years ago.

He said this method of reproducing the image of feathers, wet cloth and leaves in a plaster cast was invented by Franklin, who kept the process a lifelong secret.

Process Secret

Mr. Newman also credited Franklin with improving a method of stereotyping nine years after it was developed in 1730.

He said Franklin added gypsum and asbestos to the plaster cast to keep it from cracking when hot lead was poured into it.

This process, he also kept a secret — to prevent counterfeiters from reproducing American money.

Mr. Newman has been collecting and studying old coins and paper money for 25 years.

November 25, 1966

Dr. James Sloss
888 River Road
Beaver, Penna.

Dear Jim:

I am still attempting to recover from the magnificence of your collection. It was a memorable experience to examine the portion of it you showed me. I am hopeful my convalescence will be slow and that I will continue to see such gems even when I sleep.

All of your family are so pleasant to be with and so gracious. I think I ought to call you more often just to talk to them first. Sarann even can control your enthusiasm sometimes which is an impossible accomplishment in itself. Thanks to all of you for such a nice weekend for Evelyn and me.

May all of you have a delightful Christmas holiday season in your new home and let's see which of you are the first to visit us.

With sincere appreciation,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

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Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

Founded June 14, 1878

PRESIDENT - - DR. JAMES O. SLOSS
VICE-PRESIDENT - - GLENN A. MOONEY
SECRETARY-TREASURER - JOHN L. KNABENSCHUH
CURATOR - - - WILLIAM HUNTER

ANA - CL39

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY
JOHN L. KNABENSCHUH
POST OFFICE BOX 68
DRAVOSBURG, PA. 15034

118 Telstar Drive
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236
Dec. 28, 1966

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I'm sorry not to have been able to meet and chat with you at the WPNS Banquet in November. I did, however still enjoy your talk from John Knabenschuh's excellent tape recording. The enclosed copy is the result of notes taken from a couple "listenings" of it, and I hope it is reasonably presentable for publication. It is finally going out to The Numismatist, Numismatic Scrapbook, and COIN WORLD.

We had problems in getting presentable black and whites from the colored slides of Dick's, but think we have two excellent shots for two of the publications. A complete set is enclosed for your use. Copy of news releases is also being sent along for your scrapbook.

Many sincere congratulations on the excellent work in the December Numismatist. It certainly looks like another well-earned Heath award, Eric. I had thought I might squeak into an Honorary Mention for my "Swedish Coinage@Reflector of History" (Numismatist, 9/66) but now I'm doubtful.

May I add my thanks for being our Speaker, It was a well-received and very timely subject.

Cordially,

John A. Nelson,
Publicity

January 5, 1967

Mr. John A. Nelson
118 TelstarDrive
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15236

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your very kind letter of December 28, 1966. I am very sorry I did not meet you, but at least you were relieved of having to listen to me.

Your remarks as to my article "Sources of Emblems and Mottoes" are most appreciated. I enjoyed working on this subject so much.

I am very pleased that you are enthusiastic about getting a Heath Award for your Swedish Coinage article and can assure you that my article will in no way interfere with consideration of yours by the Committee.

I like the pictures you sent because they include so many of your fellow-members.

As to the publicity release, you certainly condensed what I said at length into a concentrated outline.

It was a pleasure to talk to such a sincere group as yours.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

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ADDRESS OF SECRETARY
JOHN L. KNABENSCHUH
POST OFFICE BOX 68
DRAVOSBURG, PA. 15034

January 22, 1967

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Mr. Newman,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I forward to you herein, an ANA Educational Award for your excellent talk at our Annual Dinner Meeting on November 19, 1966.

I am also mailing to you today, by separate mail, a medallion which we are presenting to you as a small token of our appreciation for your unselfish service to the WPNS and to Numismatics.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Knabenschuh

John L. Knabenschuh

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 24, 1967

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society
P.O.Box 68
Dravosburg, Penna. 15034

Attention: Mr.John L. Knabenschuh

Dear Friends:

It certainly was enough satisfaction to have had the opportunity to share an evening with your enthusiastic organization. Any time I can give a program which is of interest to sincere numismatists I feel as though I am giving to numismatics just a small share of the pleasure it has given to me.

For you to send me such a lovely medal and the ANA Educational Award Certificate was a pleasant surprise and I thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb